

THE BENSON FAMILY

Great-grandfather came from London to Virginia some time before the Revolutionary War. I do not know his given name nor where he settled in Virginia. He reared ten sons to be grown. Their names were: Joshua, (our grandfather), Faraoh, William, Prew, Pleasant, Charles, Hardy, Reuben, and Samuel. ⁽¹⁾ I do not remember the other names.

Grandfather and Faraoh went to Kentucky about 1790 and stayed for a few years then went back to Virginia. Later they and Hardy went to Spartenburg, South Carolina. Grandfather put up a blacksmith shop and an iron foundry. There he married Rose Annie Nesbitt. In 1814 he moved to Mississippi. Faraoh and another brother went with him.

Charles settled at Greenville, ^{SOUTH} ~~North~~ Carolina in 1800 and lived there to be a very old man. William and Pleasant went to Tennessee about the time Grandfather went to Mississippi. Hardy went to Alabama about the same time and built a mill to be run by water power from a dam across the river. While he was standing on the dam, it broke and was ^{he} drown.

There were three Bary W. Bensons, our uncle, and two cousins and probably another, for one of Grandfather's brothers may have had the same name. Uncle Barry died in 1840. Father could give very little history of his family. I learned from Dr. Winter ⁽²⁾ when I was at his home in Jackson, Mississippi and from a negro woman in Paris, Texas, who had belonged to Uncle Charlie at Greenville, ^S ~~N~~.C., about all that I know.

(signed) Barry W. Benson

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Father's brothers and sisters were Reuben, Barry, Sarah, Mary, Amanda, Samuel Nesbitt, Wilson and Hardy. Reuben, the oldest, lived at Birmingham and had an iron foundry. There is a Reuben Benson at Anderson, South Carolina. Father's name, Georga Roads Benson.

A Sketch of My Early Days

I was born the fourth of March, 1857, at my grandfather Thomas Sumerall's home on the west bank of the Pashaguila River, Jackson County, Mississippi, known as Ware's Bluff, about six miles above Pashaguila Bay. The river was eight miles wide at this place. At this time, Father and Uncle George Sumerall were building a saw-mill a half-mile up the river at the mouth of Bluff Creek. After the mill was built, he built a house for the family which now consisted of Theodore, Eugene, Kate, Bettie and me. Just when we moved to this new house I do not remember. The house was on a hill over-looking the valley where the mill was. There was deep white sand around the place. We had a baby-buggy ~~turned over~~ which had a tongue like a little wagon. I remember Sister Kate and Pink McRea carried me down the hill in the buggy and on coming back up this sandy hill the buggy turned over and spilt me out in the sand. As well as I remember, Eugene and a negro came to the rescue and helped us up the hill. This was probably in the year of 1860. About this time I had an attack of fever and was quite sick for several days. I remember Father, Mother, and Grandma sitting by my bed and some children, I suppose it was sister Kate and Bettie, making a noise. I told them to stop as it hurt my head. I recovered rather slowly, and the doctor said it would be best to take me away for a while. So it was planned for Mother to take

me to Aunt Lizzie Lackey's. Brother Nesbitt was about one year old, so Aunt Maria was to go along as a nurse. We went to Ocean Springs where we took a Steamboat for New Orleans going up Lake Pouchtraine to within six miles of New Orleans and there boarded a train to the city. I remember that Uncle Jeff was there with two buggies for us. One of the buggies was driven by a negro. Something went wrong with that one and it was after dark when we ^{to this} got home at Chrystal Springs. I remember that the house was lit up, and Aunt Lizzie's coming out to meet us.

Things drafted along very well for a while until one day company came for dinner. I had a dislike to eating at the second table. I asked Mother who would have to wait, and was told that I would for one. I replied that I had come to get my dinner. Mother was a great admirer of Solomon's saying, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." We went to the garden and had an interview. After that I could wait just as well as any boy. When we went home, Uncle Joe, a negro man, was there to meet us.

^{This} ~~There~~ was in the fall of 1860 and politics were getting warm. Democrats had put out two tickets for the presidential election. There were several more tickets. The North was leaning to Lincoln and he was elected. His party was for freeing the negroes and the South was for keeping them as slaves. The southern States began to withdraw from the Union. The war clouds began to hang low and everyone expected there would be trouble. The men began to get ready for it.

Uncle George Sumerall joined the army early in the Spring at New Orleans. Father and cousin Jim McRea got up a company at Broad Church not far from where we lived. The drill ground was between our house and Grandpa's.

I remember going to see them drill. Father was captain and Jim was lieutenant. As Father was running a corn-mill with the saw-mill, the people wanted him to stay at home. He gave up his commission and Jim took his place. Little did the people realize that there was going to be a war. By fall, the Yankees had cut us off from New Orleans. We could not sell any lumber or get supplies from there. Mobile was forty miles away and eight miles of water to cross on a flat boat. Father and Grandfather soon saw that something had to be done.

Sister Arabella was born in 1861, and Mother took septic fever and was in bed a long time. Father's foreman at the mill, named Jacko, had been with us since before I could remember. Alfred Hodge, the clerk in the store had been with him for sometime, too. They were both going to join the army. I do not remember when Hodges left, but Jacko stayed until after Christmas. This was our last Christmas at the Bay. Mother filled two paper sacks with candy and one with flour and hung them to the ceiling in the dining room. We were blind-folded and given a stick to hit the candy sacks with. I came first, then Bettie, and Kate. Kate took several more than were her number and knocked a hole in the flour sack. Eugene knocked the candy. A piece got under the safe and Mr. Jacko told me where it was.

Things were getting warmed up by this time. There had been several big battles fought and the South seemed to be holding her own. Grandpa began to make arrangements to move. He sent some of the negroes to Uncle Jeff Lackey's near Chrystal Springs. In a short time he and Grandma and the other negroes followed. Father could not get his business settled up so as to leave until near the last of February. Before that time, the Yankee's gun-boats were on the lake and at the mouth of the Mississippi. Father had

two mules and a light wagon, so it was somewhat of a job to move negroes and all. Theodore and a man named Marsellus (negro) who was the mule driver, went to Mobile for supplies. It took about four days to make the trip of forty miles, eight miles of it was the water across the East and West Pashagulla Rivers. They crossed on a large flat boat and landed at Griffin's mill on the east side. They would bring ~~geed~~ the goods to Mr. Griffin's and leave the team and wagon and float the supplies on the boat to us.

Uncle Wilson Benson owned some farms in Arkansas near Hellener. Father was to go there and take one of the farms. That ~~xxx~~ was the understanding when Grandfather left. So Father made arrangements to send some of the negroes to Uncle Jeff's. He partly dismantled the mill and by the last of February was ready to leave for ~~Arkansas~~ Arkansas. I do not remember the date, but we left early in the morning and it was late in the ~~afternoon~~ afternoon when we got to Mr. Griffin's. There were in our family Father, Mother, and the seven children. Arabella was the baby. Of the negroes there were Uncle Bob Warren^e, his wife, two girls, Martha and Catherine, and three women. Several of the negro men had been left to push ~~the~~ the boat. We stayed at Mr. Griffin's sometime. I remember the young lady's playing the piano.

Mobile

We left for ~~Mobile~~ with the family, the negroes and a wagon load of baggage. Father got a horse and buggy for Mother and the little children. The roads were muddy and in places water was over them. Catherine fell in a water hole and got very wet, but had to wear her clothes ^{wet} until night. She took cold and it developed into pneumonia, then tuberculosis. She lived about a year.

We reached Mid-house after dark. This was a house kept for travelers

by an old man and his wife. We got to Mobile the next day and stopped at Cousin Belle McRae Armer's. She was a McRea, a sister to Jim, also John, who was the governor of Mississippi in 1855. I think that we stayed there the next day.

Theodore and Marsellas returned from the trip to the Mill Place. Father had made arrangements with a Mr. Cates who had two yokes of oxen and a wagon to move the negroes as far as Uncle Jeff's on the Pearl River. So they went back and flat-boated the mules and wagon back to the mill. The two wagons were loaded and they drove through one hundred miles or more to Chrystal Springs which was northwest of the bay. We boarded the train early in the morning for Meridian, Miss., and then to Jackson, reaching it sometime in the night. We were to stop at Aunt Sarah Shotwell's, Father's oldest sister. Uncle Bob (negro) went out to ~~look~~ her house and got her carriage and driver Joe. Then we drove out there. Father learned that the Yankees had gotten possession of the country where Uncle Wilson ~~lived~~ lived. Aund Sarah had her silver and china buried to keep it from the Yankees. The Yankees ran their horses over the yard and garden, jumping fences. A horse fell into the hole where the silver was buried. They took the silver and broke the china piece by piece with their riding whips.

Uncle Jeff wrote Aunt Sarah that he could get a place large enough for Father and Grandpa. We did not care to get mixed up with the Yankees just then, so Father went to Chrystal Springs and closed the deal for the place, then came back for us. When we got there, Grandpa had moved in and sent his buggy to the depot for us. I remember when we drove up he came out to the field gate and Mother asked me if I knew him. This was March 2, 1862. I remember Theodore and Mr. Cates coming with the negroes. I think Theodore and Marsellas went back again, for Uncle Joe had been left to look after things until they could make another trip. Mr. Cates was to move in the house with

Father came back, he brought Uncle Wilson's water spaniel dog. We kept the dog until we started to Texas, then gave him to Uncle Bob, who was Father's body servant and was with him when he attended school in Frankfort, Ky.

Theodore and Eugene went to school to a lady, Mrs. O'Bryan, the first year we were at Chrystal Springs, but Kate and Bettie did not go.

The gin was in a field about half a mile from the house and when they worked that field their dinner was carried to them. Sometimes I would go and hunt with Father, making the squirrels turn so that he could shoot them. One rainy day I went with the boys, and cried. They laughed and said I would not make a soldier if I could not take the rain.

On the seventh of April the battle of Shilo was fought. General Albert Sidney Johnson was killed and Captain Wilks of Chrystal Springs. The battle was fought on Friday and Saturday, and a week from the following Sunday we went to church and saw them taking Captain Wilk's body from the train. He was buried at County Line church yard, where Grandfather and Grandmother Sumerall, sister Bettie, and Uncle Jeff Lackey were buried.

One Sunday morning a negro girl started to dress ^{me} for church. I rebelled, got upon a big box and defied her. She called for Mother and Father. When Father came, we went out to the hurrah bush and had an interview. When that was over, I was willing for anyone to dress me and to go to church too. It was about this time that Kate and Bettie saw the first cotton open, and they wanted to know if it were "ripe". Folks ~~stayed~~ talked of hard times and of little to eat. We did not have any flour bread in our house from March of '62 until the fall of '64, nearly three years, and no coffee and but little sugar. Christmas came and Mother took a little sugar and ~~and~~ corn meal, made a sifter of a piece of muslin, and cooked some sweet corn cakes. There was no candy or firecrackers.

us and I think that he came back the second time.

This place was known as the Louis place. It was about four miles northwest of Chrystal Springs. It was a large house with a yard full of flowers and shrubs. From the south gate the land was level, but the west fence and gate were on the brink of a steep hill and the steps were built from the gate to the road below.

Well, we were now at home ~~fr~~ for the remainder of the year 1862, and there was work to be done. There was not ~~room~~ house room for all of the negroes, so Father had to build cabins. Spinning wheels and looms had to be started and kept going for there were 50 whites and blacks to be clothed. There were no cotton mills to weave the cloth; it was all done at home. Grandma and Mother soon had looms running. They made warping spools out of cane about 1 by 10 inches. I remember Uncle Ned, one of the negroes, cutting cane spools and he taught me how to count them. We did not have any meat for the negroes, so Father let one of the men, Daniel, go to a Mr. Henderson for meat.

We had not gotten very far in the work when a letter came from Aunt Sarah telling that Uncle Wilson had ~~been~~ been killed. Father left at once to go with Aunt Lizzie, his wife, to where he had been killed. But things were so rough in Arkansas at that time, Father did not go all the way. It would have been dangerous to him. Aunt Lizzie went on and found ~~what~~ out what she could. He was killed several miles from his home by some negroes. His watch was found on one of them. A Yankee ~~soldier~~ soldier found his body and evidence that he was a Mason, and burried him with Masonic honors. When

Christmas week Father bought what was called the Rhines Place. We moved ~~there~~ there the 3rd of January, 1863. That was our home until we left it on November 27, 1868. Soon after we were settled at this place, Father and some of the men took their negro men and cut pine logs and built a school house. The logs were ⁿ huge. The house was 20 x 40 feet with four windows with shutters, and with a fire-place in the west end and a door in the east. There were no glass windows. It was a little over two miles from our house. Theodore, Eugene, Kate, and Bettie went, but I did not start until later in the year. The teacher was Miss Lizzie Farris. We had school until summer. Brother Tommie was born in February, 1863. Father was in the army a part of that year. Miss Lizzie took up school that fall and continued until the next June. All five of us went that year. I do not remember much about it now, but I know that I did learn a little, for I hardly knew my letters when school was out.

About the first of June, Father came home from the army very sick and continued ill for some time. We went to County Line church to Sunday school. On the last Sunday in June, Mother had a negro hitch up the wagon and take us. It was very hot. Sister Bettie had the headache and was quite sick when we got home. She was better the next day, but on Tuesday her head began to hurt again. She took her bed with what was then called brain fever. She died at 8 O'clock Friday and was buried the next day at old County Line church yard. (It was just 53 years to a day from Bettie's death to Nesbitt's.) After Bettie's death, I went to Grandma's in Simpson County and stayed for a while. Uncle Jeff started a school near his home. Theodore and Eugene went there. Kate and I went two or three months to Miss Marshall and 3 weeks to a man. That was in the winter of '64 and '65. Father was sick all that winter. In

the spring I was sent with a negro man named Berraman to Aunt Sarah Shotwell's. She lived about 7 miles northwest of Jackson. We had two yokes of oxen. It took several days to make the trip. Aunt Sarah sent to Father by me several hundred dollars in Confederate money. When we were in about two miles of home, I left the negro and walked home. Aunt Sarah had told us that the South was lost. In a few days Lee surrendered and the war was over. Father was so that he could get about very well at this time.

Early in May, Father had the wagon loaded with sweet potatoes and other farm products to go to Vicksburg. The negro Berraman and I were to do the driving. This time we had four-mule teams. We went to Raymon and found Cousin Bob Hall and spent the night with him. The next day we crossed the Big Black River. The Yankees had a trading post there. We found ready sale for all we had. I do not remember what we got for the load. Father bought a barrel of flour for \$20. He paid 50 cents a yard for calico for Kate's dress. We went back by Uncle Howell Hall's ^{ELIZABETH A. (NANCY)} ~~(Aunt Mary Benson's)~~ to see Elic ^(ALEXANDER) and the girls. We ~~stop~~ stopped at a house near sundown where there was a young man standing in the yard. Father asked where Howell Hall lived. The man asked if we were going there. He said if we would wait a little while that he would go with us. He came up to the wagon and took Father by the hand and said, "I am glad to see you again." It was Howell Hall! They had not seen each other for many years. Cousin Bob and Elic had gone to Virginia at the out-break of the war. Cousin Bob lost his left arm at the Battle of Seven Pines. He came home for a while, but went back and was in the battles of Baker's Creek and Jackson. Elic did not come home until the surrender. He was with Lee all the way through. Cousin Elic went on with us to his home, ^{who} but would not tell ~~xx xxxxx~~ we were, for ~~xx~~ he wanted to surprise his father

and sister. But it was not long until they knew who we were. One of the negro women saw Berramen. She came running in the house and took Father by the hand, calling him "Massa George." She had been one of Grandma Benson's negroes. We had a pleasant night and left early the next morning for Aunt Sarah's. We met six ~~xx~~ soldiers who asked for a ride to Clinton. We took them. Some of them hadn't been home since the beginning of the war. We got to Aunt Sarah's about noon and stayed until the next day. Father went to Jackson the next day to get his parole. He had put down his gun about a year before.

We got home the next day, Sunday, and had biscuits for breakfast. We went to school for a while to Storey Taylor and then about three months to Mr. Judson Thigpin. The negroes left that fall. Then I went to the kitchen to help with the cooking. Kate went to Raymon to school and stayed with Cousin Bob Hall in '66 and '67. Sister Lillie was born in July of that year ('66). In ~~June~~ January, '67, Theodore, Eugene and myself started to school at old Chrystal Springs to Mr. McNeil. Not any of us went in the fall of '68 for all had to work. We came to Texas that fall.

When the family refuged from the coast to Chrystal Springs (since no supplies were grown on the coast), they closed the house, but could not take the furniture household things with them. When the war was over, the ~~Yxx~~ Yankees had taken away and destroyed everything. The house had been used as headquarters for officers. Father had a store with the mill. Everything moveable was gone, and the mill was burned.

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Overland Travel to Texas in 1868

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, my father, G. R. Benson, was operating a lumber mill at the mouth of Bluff Creek on the Pashaguila River, Jackson County, Mississippi, one-half mile above Ware's Bluff. It was not long before it became necessary for us to move as the Yankees got between us and our smoke-house and the corn crib. We possessed about 50 slaves. There was not any corn or cotton in that country. The Spring of 1862 we were near Chrystal Springs about 4 mi. northwest of what was then known as the Louis Place.

In the fall of that year, a Mr. John Rimes died and his estate was sold under the administrator. Father bought the home place and some of the live stock with deferred payments. By the time the notes came due it was seen that the South would lose out and the administrator refused to take Confederate money. Father was at this time in the army so Uncle Jeff Lackey and a Mr. Sanders presented the money.

In June, father was taken ^{dowd} with camp fever and was sent home on sick leave. He was in bed nearly 3 months. When able for duty, he was ordered back to his command. Two days before he was to leave, he took cramp collic and then yellow jaundice. This was about October, 1864. He was confined to his bed until the next February. He was not back at his command any more, for he was hardly able to walk when Lee surrendered the 25th of April.

In 1866, suit was brought against the notes on the land and was decided in the spring of 1868 with judgment against us at the rate of one dollar to eleven. The judgment was something more than \$1200. So father let the plac^e go and kept the stock. Father then began to make plans to come to Texas that fall as soon as we could gather the crop.

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A few days before we were to leave, we had a sale of farm impliments, stock, feed, and household goods. I remember that I had a game rooster and a feed basket that Uncle Jerry, one of Grandpa's negroes, had made for me. I got one dollar for my rooster and fifty cents for the basket. We had intended to work mules and light wagons. But Nathan Slay, Mother's cousin and father's captain in the war, who had decided to come with us, persuaded father to get oxen, as they were used a great deal in Texas for freighting. So father bought two yokes. He had a carriage which looked like a sedan ^{in the} car body. It had glass doors ~~on the sides~~ and on the sides that closed up in time of rain or cold. But this was not adapted to moving a family several hundred miles. He took it to Terry Station to a blacksmith and wagon maker and had him put a hack bed on the running gear and a good top well covered with cirtains all around. This was for mother and the children to ride and sleep in at night. Father had taken all of the beds and bedding that we would not need on the road to the gin and had them pressed like bales of cotton and put them in the wagon and built around it with other things. So on the evening of November 25 our wagon was loaded and by ~~break~~ day-break the next morning we were on the road to Texas.

Father had hired a negro, Will Brice, to come a little way with us to teach Eugene to drive the oxen. We got to old Chrystal Springs where we would turn west and were to meet others. They were Will Evans and family, his brother-in-law, Mr. Henderson, Nathan Slay and his Uncle Hugh McCain, John Couch, Mr. Hargroves, Redden Bird, Mr. McIntosh who was a cousin of Mrs. Couch, and her sister.

We had our first dinner at Bethlehem church, six miles west of Chrystal Springs. Redden Bird left Mr. Couch that morning and was on his way back

to Chrystal Springs when we met him. He took his saddle pockets off and handed them to Theodore ~~and~~ ~~x~~ and said, "keep them until I overtake you." He and father went to Chrystal Springs while we were eating dinner. The driver told father that the load was too heavy for the team and two yoke of oxen. We heard of a yoke that was for sale. Father and Redden went to see them and finally gave the owner a small mule and \$40 for them. At noon Friday we came up with Nathan Slay at Byopier, a small ~~big~~ river. Thirty-eight were in our party: Nathan Slay, his wife and 6 children; Hugu McCain, wife and 5 children; Couch, his wife and one child; his wife's sister; Mr. Hargrove; Will ^E Evans, his wife and 3 children; Mr. Henderson, Redden Bird, Billy Slay and Sammy Summral who were Mother's cousins; and the nine of our family.

We got across the river just before night and camped. Mr. Evans had started to Texas and did not want to be all winter getting there. As he had a good team of horses, he left us on Saturday ~~morning~~ morning and we did not see anything more of him. Sunday found ^{us} on our way to Rodney where we could cross the Mississippi R. That evening we passed through Port Gibson. Just before sundown on Sunday, we were just clearing a deep cut in the road. I was a little ahead ~~ix~~ of the wagon in a valley and small creek. I had turned out of the road, when a nice looking man and a young lady came up to me and asked who the people were, and where from. I told him. He wanted to know if we were any kin to George Benson's. I told him that was father's name. He told me we had better camp for there was not another good place for several miles. He introduced himself to mother as John Henderson, son of John Henderson who had lived near Jackson near the war. He had known father well when they were young; mother ~~knew~~ knew of his family. His father had known

my mother's people, the ~~Sm~~ Sumralls and McGr^e in Wayne County, Miss.

Monday we crossed the river by steam ferry boat at Roddney. We went on down on the side of the west bank of the river, there we turned west for the Tensaw R. Most of the country was level with cotton fields, lakes, and lagoons of water. We crossed the ^{Tensaw} ~~Tensaw~~ R. that afternoon and camped in heavy timbered country.

Will Brice, driver, turned back on Wednesday morning. Eugene took the whip and ~~became~~ became driver. Little did we know that six miles of black mud lay ahead! We got to Sicily Island that afternoon, a peak of land between the Tensaw and the Washitaw Rivers. Mr. Couch said to wait until they got to Texas to pass judgment on black mud.

The next day we crossed the Washitaw R. at Harrisonburg. It began to rain. The ferry was not long~~enough~~ enough to take our team and 3 yokes at one time, so they divided. The 2 yokes and the saddle horses went over; then it came back for the wagon. I stood in the rain and held the horses and guarded the oxen while our wagon was put across. I did not have an overcoat so took the rain as it came. Father had a blue Yankee overcoat; Kate, a shawl. Slikers and henskins were not known then. We drove several miles before making camp.

Early the next morning we crossed the Little River, then Red River at the "cut off." As there was not much water in the old river, we forded it and landed in the town of ~~Mc~~ McIntosh, one of the oldest towns in Louisiana where French was spoken by both negro^es and whites, where we found French bread oval shaped and pointed at the ends and so tough that it would stretch like rubber.

We moved on west and came near Pleasant Hill, where one of the hardest

battles of the Civil war was fought west of the Mississippi. We camped about a mile east of this little town on Thursday night. As the stock was somewhat worked down it was agreed to stop over for a few days. As well as I remember, a Mr. Willis put our stock in his field and we found a negro family that would take in washing. We all took a change and had on clean clothes once more. Sunday morning the Slays and Couches came over and found father despondent, for he did not know whether to go on or turn back, or stay where he was. Right there he made another mistake. Father did not know how to drive oxen and did not have the patience to learn. Mr. Hargroves proposed that he would stay with father and drive through to Dallas for his board. But he would not promise to stay over until Monday, so left us there.

Passing thru Pleasant Hill we met a man named Gadish with a wagon-load of cotton. He had a fine farm he would rent, and got father to look at it. It was several miles from town. The family went ^{on} to his house to wait while father was gone. Passing thru town, Mr. Gadish got a bottle of whiskey and was soon too drunk to stay on his horse. Father looked the farm over and decided he would like Texas better. When he left, Mr. Gadish was too drunk to get away.

Mrs. Gadish and mother had been reared near each other. She insisted on out staying in the house. It rained most of the night and the next day. By Friday the high water receded and we again set out. Pulling deep creek banks broke the wagon bolt. Mansfield was 9 miles away. I was too sick to help any with the wagon. Father and the other boys jacked the wagon up and got the bolt out. Eugene mounted a mule and went to Mansfield to get a new king bolt. Later 2 ox wagons and a hack came by. Following was a man and two boys. He asked me who we were, and wanted to know if we were George Benson's family.

He said he had been trying to catch us ever since we left ~~Tex~~ Terry, Miss. He was Wm. Ware, a nephew of the man who built the hack body. The boys were, his son Calvin, and Samuel Moss. He talked some time to Mother and left saying he would wait at Mansfield for us.

This was the only accident we had on the road. We reached Mansfield about noon the next day. Father sent me to the post-office. Here I saw my first bucking ~~knar~~ horse. I saw a horse lying down on the street. The porch in front of the building was several feet high. Other boys and I were standing looking at the horse when a negro man went up to him, caught up the bridle reins, mounted him as he lay on the grass. He told the ones holding the ropes to turn him loose. The horse went up in the air and around and then started for the post-office. A kind lady standing in the office door ~~at~~ pulled several of us boys into the building. The horse decided to go another way, up and down, but the negro stayed on him. He made a break and ran with a rope to one foot and a halter on. We could see him for half a mile with the negro still on him. He was a regular Texas bronk -- but the negro rode him!

We all decided to go to ~~ix~~ Red River County where Mr. Moss had relatives named Garvins and Kelley. There was nothing of importance that happened for the next few days. We crossed the Louisiana state line on Thursday afternoon. We met a negro man and Eugene asked him if we had crossed into Texas. He gave a grin which showed about 6 inches of ivory teeth as he said, "You is in Texas now!"

We reached Marshall on Friday. Since it was the day before Christmas, I went into the stores to look about. I saw more toys than I had ever seen all together before. I remember a man came in with 2 real pretty girls to

look at the toys, too. We moved on to Jefferson late that evening. Christmas day we stopped a while in Jefferson, but moved about 2 miles out before dinner. We had stopped near a house and a man ~~fx~~ offered us some coffee. Mabe you think it wasn't appreciated! We seldom had coffee for dinner.

Sunday and Monday were uneventful days. We passed through Snowhill and Daingerfield, and Tuesday afternoon we crossed the Big White Oak Creek in Titus Co. Late that evening we stopped at Joe Binion's to buy feed. It was ~~xxx~~ raining. He had a little house off the road, but if we wanted to we could camp there. It was a double log house with punchion floors, but it was good shelter from the rain which continued all night. We moved within a few miles of Sulphur River, the boundary between Titus and Red River Counties. If we had been three hours earlier we could have crossed that evening, but we had to stay at a house until Sunday a week, for by Wednesday, Sulphur River was a mile wide. The house was on the south side of what was called Sulphur Prairie. It was 2 Mi. to timber on the north, ten miles west, and one mile east. There were wild ducks, geese, brants, and sandbills in large droves. Wild cattle and deer were plentiful. While we were water bound, we spent the time hunting and looking at the country. We tried to start Sunday but had to wait until Monday. Had to ferry the river and swim the slew. It was late Monday evening before we all got over.

We went to old man Garvin's that night and the next night camped at ~~Cut-Han~~ ^{Cut-Han} Post Office where Wm. Garvin lived. Mr. Moss stopped at the old man's -- ^{si} ~~their~~ wives were sisters. He let us have a house to camp in. Mr. Ware was with us and had taken sick on the road. At this time he was quite sick. Mother was the only doctor he could get.

We were now ten miles south of Clarksville and south of Cut Han Creek.

Father went to Clarksville to get a place and was intending to go right on, but another big rain put the creeks up. We reached our home for the year of 1879 on January 18. It was the old Brewster place, three miles southwest of Clarksville.

I am bringing this story to a close January 18, 1928, just 59 years after landing at our first Texas home. So, in conclusion, I will say we had no bad accidents or sickness, and were on the road ~~32~~ 54 days. Of the ten men who started with us, and the two who later joined making twelve in all, ten had served in the Confederate Army from one to four years. Of our family of ten there are five living; Sister Kate, myself, Sister Arabella, Tommy, and Sister Lillie.

(signed)

Barry W. Benson

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GENEALOGY COLLECTION
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W. H. McCulloch, - The subject of this biographical sketch is a veteran of the Civil War, has been a long time resident of Texas, and for twenty years has maintained his home at his present location in Erath county, where he is ranked as a prominent and enterprising farmer.

Mr. McCulloch claims Mississippi as the state of his nativity, his birth having occurred there April 15, 1840; but he was reared in Alabama and Arkansas, his parents removing to the former state when he was two years old, and later to Arkansas. He is the son of James and Mary (Blakely), the father a native of North Carolina and the mother of Tennessee. James McCulloch was the son of Isaac McCulloch, a Revolutionary soldier, who at the close of the war of Independence settled in North Carolina and subsequently took up his abode in Alabama, where he died. The McCulloch's, as the name suggests, are of Irish descent. James McCulloch was fourteen years old at the time the family removed to Alabama, which was then a frontier state, where he grew up on a farm amid crude surroundings, remote from schools and with few advantages, and there he spent eighteen years of his life. In 1839 he went to Mississippi, in 1841 returned to Alabama, in 1843 to Arkansas. In the later state he lost his wife, and in 1859 he came to Texas, locating in Red River county, where he passed the remainder of his life. In 1860 he married for his second wife Mrs Mary Wilkins, who survives him and still a resident of Red River county. He passed all his life on a farm and brought up his children to farming pursuits, and at the same time was interested in a higher and better work, -- planting seeds in other fields and preparing for other harvests. Mr. McCulloch was converted and joined the Baptist Church in 1848. The

next year he began to preach and from that time until his death he was in the active work of the ministry, having under his charge at the same time from two to four churches. Scores were brought into the church through his ministry. His children are all church members and occupying honorable and useful positions in life, and there is not a blot on the character of any of them. At the close of his busy life, still eager to labor in the service of his Master, he was submissive and his last words were, "If it is the Lord's will that I shall die, I am willing."

The subject of our sketch came with his father to Texas in 1859 and remained a member of the home circle until 1872, the time of his marriage. When the war between the north and south was inaugurated he was not slow to show his colors and prove his loyalty to the cause he believed to be right and just. We find him in 1861 enlisted as a member of Forrest's battalion. He was mustered in at Memphis, Tennessee, went from there to Hopkinsville, Kentucky, for winter quarters, and continued in that command until after the battle of Fort Donaldson, where no less than one half of his regiment was captured. He was among those who escaped and went to Huntsville, Alabama. The captain of his company returned to Texas and raised a regiment, was joined by those who were left of Forrest's battalion, young McCulloch included, and thus was formed the Twenty-Third Texas Cavalry. This command was on duty in Louisiana and Texas, aided in driving Banks down the Red River and in that hotly contested fight at Yellow Bayou. At the close of the war Mr. McCulloch was at Richmond, Texas, where he received an honorable discharge, and from there he returned to his home in Red River county. In all of his service, arduous and dangerous as

it was, he was neither wounded nor captured. Mr. McCulloch's return home from Richmond, a distance of three hundred miles, was made on foot. He resumed work on the farm and also did odd jobs elsewhere, cutting wood along Red River and working some at the carpenter's trade. A few years he was engaged in the grocery business. Next he farmed, served as deputy sheriff and tax collector, and again resumed farming. In 1876 he disposed of his possessions in Red River county and came to Erath county. Here he bought a tract of wild land, opened it up, and after a few years traded it for the farm he has since owned and occupied--one hundred and ten acres. Later he purchased an adjoining seventy acres of improved land, thus increasing his holdings to one hundred and eighty acres, of which one hundred and fifteen acres are under cultivation. He raises the usual crops raised here, and his farming and stock-raising are carried on not unlike that of his prosperous neighbors.

In 1872 was consummated Mr. McCulloch's marriage to Miss Kate Benson, who was born and reared in Mississippi, daughter of George R. Benson and niece of Stephen H. Darden, the later at one time comptroller of Texas. Her father was a prominent planter in Mississippi. On coming to Texas he

settled first in Red River county and later removed to Fannin county, where he died in October, 1892. He reared a family of three children: Theodore, a farmer of Erath county; Eugene, a farmer in the Indian nation; and Mrs. McCulloch. Mr. and Mrs. McCulloch have twelve children besides two that died in infancy. Those living are James, Betty, Mary, Maggie, Georgia, Willie, John, Annie, Shelby, Edgar, Roy, Weah.--all of whom are at home except two,--James, who is engaged in farming in Coryell county, Texas; and Maggie, wife of Ed Flanagan, a farmer.

Mr. McCulloch has never wavered in his support of the Democratic Party. He has always taken a laudable interest in public affairs, has served on juries since coming here,--petit and grand juries,--and in all relations of life, both public and private, has shown himself to be a man of the strictest integrity and one worthy of high esteem in which he is held by his fellows. Both he and his wife are identified with the Missionary Baptist Church.

*(excerpt taken from LONE STAR
STATE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES,
Lewis Publishing Co 1896)*

*Photo: William Houston McCulloch
and wife
Amanda Kate Benson McCulloch*



William Horatio McCulloch

Amanda Kate Benson McCulloch

Benson Family

Great-^{great}grand father Benson was born in London, England and came to Virginia some time prior to the Revolutionary War. I do not know what Great-grand mother's name was. They reared ten boys to be grown. I do not know all their names. But will give the ones I do know: Joshua (Grandfather) Faroah, Hardy, Charles, Prew, William, and I think Barry W. I do not know how many daughters there were, if any. In 1800 Grandfather went to Kentucky and lived there two years then went back to Va. and then went to Spartenburg, S.C.

Grandfather married Rosanna Nesbitt. He was a blacksmith by trade and put in a shop in Spartenburg and later a foundry. During the War of 1812 he cast cannon balls for the U.S. Army. Jackson used some of them at the Battle of New Orleans. Grandfather also made guns and clocks.

In about 1815 Grandfather, Uncle Faroah, and Uncle Hardy came west, Grandfather and Uncle Faroah came to Lawrance Co., Miss. and settled on the Pearl River near Montecello. Grandfather had ten children as follows: Samual, Prew, Sarah, Barry W., Nancy, Wilson, Nesbit and Minerva (twins), Mary, George, ~~our~~ our father. In 1820, Grandfather and Grandmother went back to S.C. and on the return Father was born at the home of George Rhodes in Georgia, so he was named George Rhodes.

Grandfather died when Father was seven months old. Uncles Prew and Samual died when they were about 30, Aunt Mary at 18, and Uncle Nesbit at 21. Aunt Nancy married Howell Hall and left five children. Aunt Minerva married but left no children. Aunt Sarah first married Mr. Engalheart, a Jew. She had a boy and a girl and lived to nearly 65. Uncle Wilson was killed during the Civil War. Uncle Charles lived for many years near Springfield N.C. William and another brother went to Tenn., Hardy dammed up a river about a mill, but the dam broke while he was on it and he was drowned. Uncle Wilson married and left one son, Nesbitt.

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Please see family sheets for correct information
on family members.

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Benson 24
Barney, W. Benson
"The Benson Family"

G' Grandfather - came from London VA
name? Pre Rev War

10 sons 1. Joshua

(g'father) born c. 1790 - to KY c. 1790 - to

2. Sarah

3. William - went to KY c. 1810

4. Prew

5. Pleasant - went to AL c. 1814

6. Hardy - went SC then AL c. 1814

7. Reuben

8. Samuel

9. Charles? settled @ Greenville SC & lived to be 100 years old

10.

1. Joshua

went to KY c. 1790 - settled in

2. Sarah

born in VA

later

Joshua

went to Florida Bay, SC

Hardy

spartanburg SC.

1. Joshua - put up blacksmith shop
- married Rose Ann H.

2. Joseph - moved to Miss. 1814

3. Joseph's brother -

4. John - died 1814

5. William - went to TN 1814

6. Pleasant

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re, so tellingly present-
discomfiture of his com.
it was found needful to
m with another promi-
pion of protection and
brought from a dis-
the State.

n office-seeker or office-
always an active and
rit in the service of his
g. Strickland's duty so
and creditably perform-
instance, as in all of his
hlu career, was a labor
labor for the right be-
he right; a labor free
h ambition, and which
read in the hearty
" gratefully accorded

grate him upon the
has won and commend
hearts of the people,
time shall come when
more than laurels shall
ed to the faithful."

r own Gen. Thomas S.
South Mississippi, for
and Maj. Wm. M. Strick-
North Mississippi, for
Governor, the ticket
invincible.

you will give space in
AT STAR for this letter,
am your friend,

HANCOCK COUNTY.
ouis, January 1, 1889.

is week was a week of
disasters, murders and

CRAT-STAR contains this
increased amount of
ing matter.

respondent. "Hancock
proposes an excellent
Governor and Lieut.
at the November elec-
tion."

color a role.

living at this office.

and R. W. Huntington secretary,
does a large New York and South
America trade. The Denny mills
—two of them—with W. Denny, A.
S. Denny and A. P. Denny mem-
bers of the firm, contribute a large
quota of the shipments; whilst
Howze & Griffin, at their mills
some two miles up Dog river, find
ready sale for all they can manu-
facture. These mills employ a
fleet of vessels and barges, which
requires numerous tugs, among
which is the splendid and powerful
tug "Leo," Capt H. Colle. This
tug is as fine a boat as can be found
on the waters of the gulf. Besides
these lumber mills, there is the
shingle mill of Dantzler & McInnis,
a foundry and machine shop, a
grist mill, boiler shop, several
small marine railways and ship-
yards, with at one time a glass fac-
tory, but it was destroyed by fire
and has not as yet been rebuilt.
The usual mercantile houses exist,
and among the live and progres-
sive men of the town can be enu-
merated: L. N. Dantzler, W. Den-
ny & Co., Pascagoula Lumber Co.,
E. Bloomfield, J. W. Stewart, Prof.
O. N. A. Yonce, Howze & Griffin,
W. M. Ward, Cowan Bros., John
Hill, A. Blumer, Dantzler & Mc-
Innis, F. H. Wilson, S. S. Henry,
O. Randall, Dr. W. D. Bragg, A.
G. Delmas and E. W. Manahan &
Co.

Right here at Moss Point are op-
portunities for the establishment
of small industries; and anything
and everything made of wood
would pay from the start. The
nearness of the material and its
cheapness should enter largely
in consideration. Within a mile
or so of town, in what is called
Pascagoula swamp, there is an
abundance of hard and soft wood;
enough to supply a host of factor-
ies half a century. They comprise
all kinds of oak, ash, beech, hick-
ory, poplar, magnolia, white bay,
pine, cypress, tupelo gum, juniper,
cedar, etc. Just imagine what this
means for chair factories, chest
bureau works, wheelbarrow

were in great profusion, and congratula-
tions to the bridal couple they took their
departure on the cannon ball train en
route for Starkville, where they spent
the Christmas holidays, and thence re-
turned to Clinton, Hinds county, their
future home.

We tender our congratulations to our
young friends, and wish them a long and
joyous wedded life.

"O! married love!—each heart shall own,
Where two congenial souls unite,
The golden chains inlaid with down,
Thy lamp with heaven's own splendor
bright."

At the residence of Mr. Thomas E.
Ramsey, on Thursday, December 13, 1888,
by Rev. J. J. Lovett, Mr. SARDIN G.
RAMSAY and Miss LULA B. HILL, both of
Jackson county.

The DEMOCRAT-STAR tenders congratu-
lations to the young and happy couple,
and wish them a long and joyous married
life.

At the residence of M. L. Hamilton, on
Thursday, December 20, 1888, by Hon. W.
F. Goff, Mr. M. R. JONES and Miss EVA
GOFF, both of Jackson county. Miss
[Ellisville paper please copy]

At the residence of Mrs. Louisa Clark,
by Rev. I. L. Pratt, D. C. McFALL and
Miss JUDD HOLMON.

DIED.

At Pascagoula, Miss., Saturday evening,
December 20, 1888, after a long and dis-
tressing illness, Capt. EDWARD J. BARNES,
a native of Denmark, aged 64 years.

The deceased leaves two little girls and
a host of friends to mourn his death.

Rev. C. N. A. Yonce, Lutheran, con-
ducted the burial service.

At Soranton, Miss., Saturday night,
December 20, 1888, at five minutes to 12
o'clock, Mrs. MARY QIMMON, mother-in-
law of Capt. James Smith, aged 89 years.

Obituary.

Departed this life at her home in
Ocean Springs, Dec. 7, 1888, Mrs. LAURA
THOMAS, aged 36 years.

Mrs. THOMAS was a member of the
Methodist church and was possessed of a
quiet and meek disposition, and bore her
afflictions with resignation to the will of
her God. We sorrow not for her as those
who have no hope, for we trust that she
has exchanged the sorrows of earth for
the joys of heaven. She leaves an af-
fectionate husband and four devoted chil-
dren, and other relatives and many

BRANSON
James P.
26-
Tanner to
en Haver
No. 8-
Parker O.
No. 9-
Field to
No. 10-
Greene to
Creary to
No. 11-
to new
Ward.
No. 12-
Intersect
ry road to
Wm Fair
No. 13-
dence of
Tanner to
No. 14-
church to
north of
No. 15-
via R. 3
Creary to
No. 16-
creek to
No. 17-
store to in
at P. Hav
No. 18-
to Howell
Henry G.
No. 19-
Fairley pl
ma.

No. 20-
ous to re-
fred Tann
No. 21-
dence of
Arch Gril
No. 22-
nection of
J. D. Gull
No. 23-
berts fer-
No. 24-
dora.
No. 25-
R. Jones.
No. 26-
W. Carter
No. 27-
road to
H. Johns
No. 28-
station of
Murdoe R
No. 29-
Head to
J. D. Bah
No. 30-
upper Br
Bout 31
Black ore
road, 4
No. 32-
18

• PROOFS

MARRIAGE NO. _____ HUSBAND JOSHUA BENSON NO. _____
BORN/BPT. C 1766 • AT VA •
SON OF PROU BENSON • AND ELIZABETH •
CHURCH _____ • OCC. _____ •
DIED 1821 • AT LAWRENCE Co., MS •
CEMETERY _____ • AT _____ •
MARRIED C 1803 • AT SPARTENBURG Co., SC •

MARRIAGE NO. _____ WIFE ROSANNAH NESBITT NO. _____
BORN/BPT. C 1781 • AT SC •
DAU. OF SAMUEL NESBITT • AND NANCY •
CHURCH _____ • OCC. _____ •
DIED 14 JUNE 1843 • AT JACKSON, HINDS Co., MS •
CEMETERY _____ • AT _____ •

A. CENSUS _____
B. FAMILY BIBLE _____
C. GRAVE MARKER _____
D. BIRTH CERTIFICATE _____
E. DEATH CERTIFICATE _____
F. MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE _____
G. BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE _____
H. WILL _____
I. _____
J. _____
K. _____
L. _____
M. _____
N. _____

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SEX	CHILDREN	BIRTH DATE	BIRTHPLACE	MARRIED TO	DATE	DEATH PLACE
	CIPRIAN PROU	C 1804	SPARTENBURG Co., SC	NEVER MARRIED		1830-40 MS
	SAMUEL NESBITT		"	MARY G. BLANCHARD	27 DEC 1832	1837
	BERRY W.		"	ELIZA ANN BARRY	14 DEC 1837	1839 Lowndes Co.
	SARAH ANN			① EDWARD ENGELHARD	5 JAN 1832	
	ELIZABETH			② ROBERT SHOTWELL	22 FEB 1855	
	MARY ANN			HOWEL A. HALL	15 APRIL 1836	1853-5 Hinds Co.
	MANERVA O.			NEVER MARRIED		
	WILSON			RICHARD P. WINSLOW	16 MAY 1844	
	NESBITT			ANN E. HOOPS ① RAILEY	7 DEC 1859	
	GEORGE ROADS	22 NOV 1820		NEVER MARRIED		1830-40 MS
			GA ①	SARAH AMANDA ANN GOFF	26 APRIL 1849	24 OCT 1891
			②	MARGARET SUMRALL	3 JAN 1855	

REMARKS _____

MRS JOSEPH (SYLVIA) MONE
1718 RIDGEMONT DR
WICHITA FALLS TX 76309

• PROOFS

MARRIAGE NO. _____ HUSBAND PROU (PREW) BENSON NO. _____
BORN/BPT. C1720 • AT VA •
SON OF ROBERT BENSON • AND FRANCES PROU •
CHURCH _____ • OCC. _____ •
DIED 1792 • AT GREENVILLE CO., SC •
CEMETERY _____ • AT _____ •
MARRIED C1750 • AT VA •

MARRIAGE NO. _____ WIFE ELIZABETH NO. _____
BORN/BPT. _____ • AT _____ •
DAU. OF _____ • AND _____ •
CHURCH _____ • OCC. _____ •
DIED _____ • AT _____ •
CEMETERY _____ • AT _____ •

A. CENSUS _____
B. FAMILY BIBLE _____
C. GRAVE MARKER _____
D. BIRTH CERTIFICATE _____
E. DEATH CERTIFICATE _____
F. MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE _____
G. BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE _____
H. WILL _____
I. _____
J. _____
K. _____
L. _____
M. _____
N. _____

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SEX	CHILDREN	BIRTH DATE	BIRTHPLACE	MARRIED TO	DATE	DEATH-PLACE
	THOMISON		VA	WILLIAM HENRY		
	BENJAMIN			MARGARET		
	HENRY			NANCY JONES		1 Nov 1828 M.
	SARA			BAKER		
	ENOCH			WILLIAM HUME		
	FRANCIS			JEMIMAH		
	WILLIAM					
	ROBERT			NANCY ANN STRINGFELLOW		
	ZACHARIAH			SARAH PARTLOW		
	GEORGE					
	JOSHUA			ROSANNAH NESBITT		
	MARY			JAMES STIELER		
	CLARISSA			JOSEPH JAMES		
	ELIZABETH			BENJAMIN WALKER		

REMARKS MAY NOT BE IN BIRTH ORDER

MRS JOSEPH (SYLVIA) MIONE
1718 RIDGEMONT DR
WICHITA FALLS TX 76309

• PROOFS

(Benson & Benson)

MARRIAGE NO. _____ HUSBAND PROU (PREW) BENSON NO. _____
BORN/BPT. C 1720 • AT VA •
SON OF ROBERT BENSON • AND FRANCES PROU •
CHURCH _____ • OCC. _____ •
DIED _____ 1792 • AT GREENVILLE CO., SC •
CEMETERY _____ • AT _____ •
MARRIED _____ C 1750 • AT VA •

MARRIAGE NO. _____ WIFE ELIZABETH NO. _____
BORN/BPT. _____ • AT _____ •
DIED _____ • AND _____ •
CHURCH _____ • OCC. _____ •
DIED _____ • AT _____ •
CEMETERY _____ • AT _____ •

- A. CENSUS _____
- B. FAMILY BIBLE _____
- C. GRAVE MARKER _____
- D. BIRTH CERTIFICATE _____
- E. DEATH CERTIFICATE _____
- F. MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE _____
- G. BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE _____
- H. WILL _____
- I. _____
- J. _____
- K. _____
- L. _____
- M. _____
- N. _____

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GENEALOGY COLLECTION
DO NOT CIRCULATE

SEX	CHILDREN	BIRTH DATE	BIRTHPLACE	MARRIED TO	DATE	DEATH PLACE
	THOMISON		VA	WILLIAM HENRY		
	BENJAMIN			MARGARET		
	HENRY			NANCY JONES		1 Nov 1828 M.
	SARA			BAKER		
	EUDECH			WILLIAM HUME		
	FRANCIS			SEMIMAH		
	WILLIAM					
	ROBERT			NANCY ANN STRINGFELLOW		
	ZACHARIAH			SARAH PARTLOW		
	GEORGE					
	JOSHUA			ROSANNAH NESBITT		
	MARY			JAMES STIGLER		
	CLARISSA			JOSEPH JAMES		
	ELIZABETH			BENJAMIN WALKER		

REMARKS MAY NOT BE IN BIRTH ORDER

MRS JOSEPH (SYLVIA) MIONE
1718 RIDGEMONT DR
WICHITA FALLS TX 76309

BENSON 30

BENSON, LIZZIE

Scranton School
Attended Feb

13 WF Feb 1889

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GENEALOGY COLLECTION

15 October 1991

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Dear Jan,

Sorry this has taken so long but I have been sick and also had four grandchildren and their parents for a visit. Don't know which is worse!

I am enclosing two sets of family sheets since I feel that one set should be kept with Barry's story. I started genealogy with this line (my fathers) and this was my Bible. I hate to say I wasted several years trying to find the family Barry wrote about.

Barry's father was the baby of the family and was raised in an extended family that included cousins old enough to be his uncles. The Dr Winter he mentioned was married first to a daughter of Sarah Englehard and then to the widow of Wilson. The unmarried children all died young. I will be more than happy to share what information I have collected.

The one other thing that I would love to have is the Cemetery where Sarah Goff Benson is buried. I have never seen Cemetery records for Ocean Springs, but I'm not even sure she would have been buried there.

I do want to add that as far as I know Sarah is not related to the Goffs in that section - Jackson Co. I believe. I did not send a sheet on her family since they moved from Va to In and then to Ms.

I hope to come to Pascagoula again and stop at the library. I would love to see the Sumrall diary.

Thanks so much for the information on Lynchburg. If you want more information let me know.

MRS JOSEPH MIONE
1718 RIDGEMONT DR
WICHITA FALLS TX 76309

Yours truly
Sylvia Mione

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Stork-Benson vows said in home rites

PECAN — Sandy Michelle Stork and Patrick Allen Benson were united in marriage Jan. 3 in an evening ceremony in the home of the grandparents and guardians of the bride, Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Stork of the Pecan Community, with the Rev. Wendall Stork officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Donald F. Stork Sr. of Pecan and Phyllis Ann Evans of Bayou la

Batre, Ala. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Champy Benson of Grand Bay, Ala.

Pebbles Seamen served her sister as matron of honor, and Christopher Benson served his brother as best man.

A reception followed in the Stork home. After a wedding trip to West Virginia, the couple is at home in Grand Bay.

B—Mississippi Press Register

Sunday, June 10, 1984

**\$100 JACKPOT
GIVEN AWAY EVERY
SATURDAY NIGHT**

NOTHING TO BUY — JUST REGISTER

NAME DRAWN: MARY E. BENSON

4210 Ruby St., Moss Point

NAME DRAWN: MRS. HOBSON TANNER

Lucedale

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY
GENEALOGY ROOM

Benson 35

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Bits and Pieces of Genealogy and History

Entries: 57521 Updated: Mon Aug 4 08:49:31 2003

Contact: Becky Teubner mbteubner@neto.com

Work in progress; Questions, comments, corrections welcomed. Included in this personal database is the community research project of Delaware, Linn, Jones & Buchanan counties of IA. Also 4 publications with the marjoity of the names found in them - Benson Trace authored & researched by the late Nettie Benson of Tx; History of the Helm Family of KY by Rev. Ben Helm; Sterrett Genealogy published in 1930 by T. Woods Sterret. At least 5 generations from Levering Family & History by John Levering pub. 1897

[Index](#) | [Descendancy](#) | [Register](#) | [Add Post-em](#)

- ID: I05395
- Name: John Hendrick Benson
- Sex: M
- Birth: ABT. 1690

Marriage 1 [Anna Collins](#) b: 29 JAN 1697/98 in Kingston, Washington Co., RI

- Married: 11 OCT 1714 in Newport, Newport Co., RI ¹

Children

1. [William Benson](#) b: 29 AUG 1718 in Newport, Newport Co., RI
2. [John Hendrick Benson](#) b: ABT. 1720 in Newport, Newport Co., RI

Sources:

1. IGI N/A Record

[Index](#) | [Descendancy](#) | [Register](#) | [Add Post-em](#)

Thank-you to my fellow researchers who allowed me to use their data. The Parr family line comes from Don Parr of Tx and all queries and additions will be forwarded to him.

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[Index](#) | [Descendancy](#) | [Register](#) | [Pedigree](#) | [Ahnentafel](#) | [Add Post-em](#)

- ID: I05118
- Name: John Hendrick Benson
- Sex: M
- Birth: ABT. 1720 in Newport, Newport Co., RI
- Death: 15 MAR 1803 in Washington Co., GA

Father: John Hendrick Benson b: ABT. 1690

Mother: Anna Collins b: 29 JAN 1697/98 in Kingston, Washington Co., RIMarriage 1 Anne Slocum b: ABT. 1725

- Married: 5 APR 1736 in Jamestown, RI

Marriage 2 Ann Hinkley b: ABT. 1730

- Married: 13 JUN 1745 in NC

Children

1. William Carroll Benson b: ABT. 1755 in NC
2. Martin Hendrick Benson b: 2 OCT 1750 in NC
3. Richard Benson b: ABT. 1760 in NC
4. Joseph Benson b: ABT. 1775

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GENEALOGY COLLECTIONMarriage 3 Nancy b: ABT. 1745

- Married: 1788 in GA

Children

1. Polly Mary Benson b: ABT. 1790 in Washington Co., GA
2. Thomas W. Benson b: 23 APR 1791 in Washington Co., GA

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- ID: I04990
- Name: Martin Hendrick Benson
- Sex: M
- Birth: 2 OCT 1750 in NC
- Death: ABT. 1832 in Valhermose, Limestone Co., AL

Father: John Hendrick Benson b: ABT. 1720 in Newport, Newport Co., RI

Mother: Ann Hinkley b: ABT. 1730

Marriage 1 [Sarah](#)

- Married: BET. 1780 - 1790 in GA

Children

1. [James Benson](#) b: 20 JUL 1785 in Wilkes Co., GA
2. [Elizabeth Benson](#) b: ABT. 1787 in Wilkes Co., GA
3. [John Benson](#) b: ABT. 1788 in Wilkes Co., GA
4. [Nathaniel Walker Benson](#) b: 12 NOV 1790 in Wilkes Co., GA
5. Martin Benson b: ABT. 1795 in Wilkes Co., GA
6. [William Lawrence Benson](#) b: 1801 in Wilkes Co., GA

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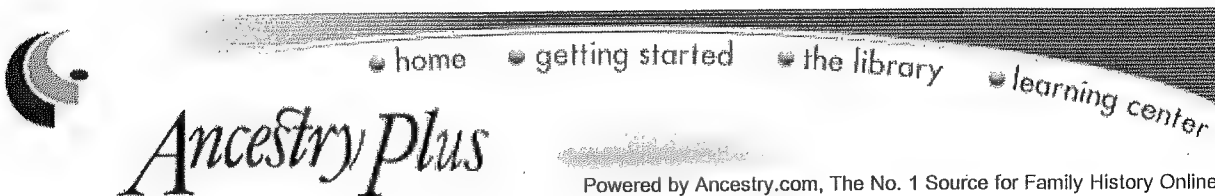
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- ID: I04632
- Name: James Benson
- Sex: M
- Birth: 20 JUL 1785 in Wilkes Co., GA
- Death: 14 AUG 1859 in Hearne, Richland Twp., Monroe Co., AR / Ash Grove (Benson) Cemetery

Father: [Martin Hendrick Benson](#) b: 2 OCT 1750 in NC

Mother: [Sarah](#)

Marriage 1 [Anna Williams](#)

- Married: 8 JUN 1810 in Adams Co., MS

Marriage 2 [Seancy Winsett](#)

- Married: 17 APR 1816 in Franklin, Williamson Co., TN

Children

1. [Jabez Curry Benson](#) b: 1817 in Franklin, Williamson Co., TN
2. [William Martin Benson](#) b: 9 SEP 1820 in Limestone Co., AL

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Marriage 3 [Mary Permelia Driver](#) b: 17 FEB 1805 in NC

- Married: ABT. 1831 in Limestone Co., AL

Children

1. [William Benson](#) b: 17 MAY 1832 in Limestone Co., AL
2. [Ursula Permelia James W. Benson](#) b: 1 MAY 1833 in Limestone Co., AL
3. [Mary Elizabeth Benson](#) b: 15 MAR 1835 in Limestone Co., AL
4. [Jane Eliza Benson](#) b: 15 JAN 1838 in Limestone Co., AL
5. [Seaborn Walker Benson](#) b: 15 FEB 1840 in Morgan Co., AL

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- ID: I05407
- Name: John Benson
- Sex: M
- Birth: ABT. 1788 in Wilkes Co., GA
- Death: BEF. 1866 in MS

Father: Martin Hendrick Benson b: 2 OCT 1750 in NCMother: SarahMarriage 1 Sarah b: ABT. 1795 in AL

- Married: ABT. 1815 in AL

Children

1. First Daughter Benson
2. David William Benson b: ABT. 1818 in Limestone Co., AL
3. Fleming B. Benson b: ABT. 1825 in Limestone Co., AL
4. Joseph Benson b: ABT. 1827 in Limestone Co., AL
5. Second Daughter Benson b: ABT. 1829
6. Third Daughter Benson b: ABT. 1830
7. William Benson b: ABT. 1831 in Limestone Co., AL
8. Fourth Daughter Benson b: ABT. 1834
9. James Benson b: ABT. 1835 in Limestone Co., AL
10. Catherine Benson b: ABT. 1837 in Marshall Co., AL
11. Nathaniel Benson b: ABT. 1849 in AR


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- Married: ABT. 1858 in Oktibbeha Co., MS

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6. Frances Marion Benson b: 10 FEB 1842 in Somerville, Morgan Co., AL
7.  Jasper McDonald Benson b: 15 JUN 1845 in Somerville, Morgan Co., AL

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- ID: I04643
- Name: William Martin Benson
- Sex: M
- Birth: 9 SEP 1820 in Limestone Co., AL
- Death: 5 SEP 1862 in Caldwell, Burleson Co., TX / Porter's Chapel Cemetery

Father: James Benson b: 20 JUL 1785 in Wilkes Co., GA

Mother: Seancy Winsett

Marriage 1 Louisa Mary Jackson b: 1824 in SC

- Married: 24 FEB 1842 in Somerville, Morgan Co., AL

Children

1. Jabez Benson b: 1843 in Somerville, Morgan Co., AL
2. Sarah Benson b: 1846 in Somerville, Morgan Co., AL
3. F. Cena Benson b: 1847 in Pontotoc Co., MS
4. James William Benson b: 10 JAN 1848 in AL
5. John Hal Benson b: 28 DEC 1851 in Pontotoc Co., MS
6. Rufus Benson b: 1854 in TX
7. Mary L. Benson b: 1856 in Burleson Co., TX
8. Dora Cordelia Benson b: 1858 in Burleson Co., TX
9. Florence Benson b: APR 1860 in Burleson Co., TX
10. Joseph Davis Benson b: 1862 in Burleson Co., TX

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- ID: I04683
- Name: John Hal Benson
- Sex: M
- Birth: 28 DEC 1851 in Pontotoc Co., MS
- Death: 3 JAN 1930 in TX / Powers Chapel Cemetery, Wilderville, Falls Co., TX

Father: William Martin Benson b: 9 SEP 1820 in Limestone Co., AL

Mother: Louisa Mary Jackson b: 1824 in SCMarriage 1 Mary Elizabeth Lucas b: 25 DEC 1850 in AL

- Married: 14 DEC 1882 in TX

Children

1. Ruby Novel Benson b: 2 MAR 1884 in Burleson Co., TX
2. Willie Alice Benson b: 10 FEB 1886 in Burleson Co., TX
3. Rufus Pierce Benson b: 22 NOV 1887 in Burleson Co., TX
4. Bert Morton Benson b: 21 MAR 1890 in Burleson Co., TX
5. Charles Harrison Benson b: 21 MAR 1890 in Burleson Co., TX

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- ID: I05353
- Name: Rufus Pierce Benson
- Sex: M
- Birth: 22 NOV 1887 in Burleson Co., TX

Father: John Hal Benson b: 28 DEC 1851 in Pontotoc Co., MS

Mother: Mary Elizabeth Lucas b: 25 DEC 1850 in AL

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Children

1. [Living Benson](#)

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OBITUARIES

BENSON

Thursday, April 05, 2007

Mr. Benjamin Franklin "Frank" **Benson**, (92), died Tuesday, April 3, 2007 at his home in Grand Bay, Ala. He was born Sept. 7, 1914 in Robertsedale, Ala.. Mr. **Benson** was retired from Department 19 of Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Miss. He was a member of the Community of Christ Church in Vancleave, Miss. Mr. **Benson** was preceded in death by his father and mother, Mr. Neil Peter and Mrs. Salima Ware **Benson**, his first wife, Mrs. Mary Kitchens **Benson**, a son, **Champy** Cecil **Benson**, grandson, Patrick Allen **Benson**, a brother, Jimmy **Benson** and two sisters, Ann Goff and Bernice Bang.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Rosa Earline **Benson** of Grand Bay, a daughter and son in law, Marie and Leigh **Benson** of Prattville, Ala., a step-daughter and son in law, Jamie and Dale Wilkerson of Irvington, Ala., brother and sister in law, Lawrence and Pearl **Benson** of Saraland, Ala., sister and brother in law, Carolina Vida and Lewis Wilkerson of Vancleave, Miss., seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Visitation will be held on Friday, April 6, 2007 from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Holder-Wells Funeral Home in Moss Point, Miss.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. from the funeral home chapel with Rev. Roger Bowers officiating.

Interment will follow in Serenity Gardens in Mobile, Ala.

Pallbearers will be Brian Brink, Patrick **Benson**, Aaron **Benson**, Bobby Wescovich, Dewayne Wilkerson, Dale Wilkerson and Jeremy **Benson**.

Arrangements by Holder-Wells Funeral Home, Moss Point, Miss.

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Fort Gaines, on the eastern end of Dauphin Island, from where a veritable fleet of fishing craft will put off into the surrounding coastal waters early of yesterday morning as Alabama's third annual deep sea rodeo formally opens. Premier event of its kind in the south, the fishing rodeo has already brought wide renown to the Alabama coast and its wealth fishing grounds, in which fishes of many species abound.

Compiled by Cammie East Cowan from issues of the Press-Register -30-

Wednesday, August 19, 1931 - Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Geron were among those attending the deep sea rodeo on Tuesday, inviting Mr. George T. Stanard and Mrs. J. L. Bedsole to be members of their party, motoring to Bayou La Batre, and there taking the steamer for Dauphin Island.

Compiled by Cammie East Cowan from issues of the Press-Register -30-

Thursday, August 20, 1931 - Fort Gaines, Dauphin Island, Ala., - S. Palmer Gaillard, Jr., of Mobile, tonight was the proud possessor of the prize for the first tarpon caught, a 58-pound silver king, that was the only one landed during the third annual Alabama deep sea rodeo. Gaillard, fishing from the Sweetheart from Bayou La Batre, battled his tarpon for 45 minutes before he was reeled into the boat and gaffed.

Compiled by Cammie East Cowan from issues of the Press-Register -30-

Saturday, April 2, 1932 - Hopes of promoters for private interests on Dauphin Island apparently are near realization after expenditure of almost \$1,000,000 by Mobile County in making the island accessible. A petition seeking the right to operate a boat service from Cedar Point, ferrying point to the island, was officially placed before the board of revenue at its Friday meeting. The petition was filed by Frank M. Collier, Jr., canning factory owner on the island.

Compiled by Cammie East Cowan from issues of the Press-Register -30-

Tuesday, May 10, 1932 - A ferry service to Dauphin Island from Cedar Point probably will start shortly after August 1, the approximate date on which County Engineer John R. Peavy expects completion of Cedar Point road to the tip of the mainland.

Compiled by Cammie East Cowan from issues of the Press-Register -30-

Monday, July 25, 1932 - More than 250 Mobilians visited Dauphin Island yesterday where they enjoyed surf bathing and a sea food feast, according to a report last night by Sam Lackland. The sea food dinner that consisted of fish, oysters, crabs and shrimp, was served by Frank Collier, who opened a ferry service to the island yesterday from Cedar Point. At one point there were more than 100 people in the surf, Mr. Lackland reported. A bath house was improvised with palms and palmettos, he said, where people changed their clothing.

Compiled by Cammie East Cowan from issues of the Press-Register -30-

Tuesday, July 26, 1932 - Object of a search by land, sea and air, four prominent Mobilians comprising a week-end fishing party were rescued early Monday afternoon in the open Gulf of Mexico, where they had been tossed, for nearly 24 hours after their small speedboat had become disabled. Those in the party - William B. Paterson, capitalist; his son Billy; Dick Luce, general manager of the Piggly-Wiggly chain of stores in Mobile, and Colonel Robert S. Thomas, United States district engineer - were returned to the city on a cruiser following their escape about four miles from Sand Island Lighthouse.

Compiled by Cammie East Cowan from issues of the Press-Register -30-

August 17, 1932 - Schedule of the ferry service between Cedar Point and Dauphin Island was announced Tuesday afternoon.... The county receives five percent of the gross profits of the ferry under a franchise contract with Frank Collier of Dauphin Island. The fare was 50 cents each way on weekdays, and 50 cents per round trip on Sundays.

Compiled by Cammie East Cowan from issues of the Press-Register -30-

Friday, Sept. 2, 1932 - With two fishermen of Mobile and two Van Vleaves, Miss, seamen missing, the tropical hurricane which swept inland yesterday after stampeding Mobile, left a grim record in its wake. Frank Benson, 18, after swimming through the churning waters of Mobile Bay to the shore, where he gave the alarm of the sinking of the Mobile owned schooner Live Oak, was rushed to Mobile Infirmary.

Compiled by Cammie East Cowan from issues of the Press-Register -30-

Tuesday, August 8, 1933 - A group of Mobile fishermen, bound for Dauphin Island to participate in the annual Deep Sea Fishing rodeo, were forced to leap overboard from their launch as it left the foot of Esplanade Street Sunday when the gasoline tank exploded. Among those who leaped into the water to safety were Leo Bradley, Joe Holberg and Harwell Dowell.

Compiled by Cammie East Cowan from issues of the Press-Register -30-

Saturday, October 14, 1933 - Approximately 213 delegates to the Alabama Sheriff's and Peace Officers convention were marooned aboard the steamer Eastern Shore about 150 feet north of the Dauphin Island pier Friday night after the bay boat ran aground on a bar while returning the visitors to the city from an excursion to the island.

Compiled by Cammie East Cowan from issues of the Press-Register -30-

Friday, October 27, 1933 - Mobile Mayor R. V. Taylor will be confined to his home for several days as a result of injuries received Wednesday afternoon when dismounting from an automobile at Cedar Point while en route to Dauphin Island with members of the state advisory board of the public works administration and out-of-town hotel men. An X-ray examination early Thursday morning disclosed that no bones were broken in the mayor's fall, and the extent of his injuries was a sprained hip.

Compiled by Cammie East Cowan from issues of the Press-Register -30-

Sunday, November 26, 1933 - Do you remember when, where and who caught the world's largest tarpon?... The big fish was landed in September 1916, was caught in the waters of Mobile Bay, at the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico, and was landed by W.G. Oliver, Birmingham business man.... The tarpon measured 6 feet, 11 inches in length and weighed 215 pounds.

Compiled by Cammie East Cowan from issues of the Press-Register -30-

Sunday, December 24, 1933 - A party of three anglers, two of them women, made a catch of 150 pounds of sheep-head and redfish today at Fort Gaines. The fish were caught with lines thrown from the end of the pier at the fort hotel. So good was the biting that the total of 150 pounds was caught in three hours. Those in the party were Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Stack and Mrs. W. H. Askew.

Compiled by Lucie Leuz-Britt from issues of the Press-Register -30-

Lawrence R. Benson (86)
SARALAND, AL
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2. NUGRO COOK
3. JAMES BALINS
STOP FATHER
TO FRANK
LAWRENCE BENSON